SUBJECTS.

5. *Reduction of the rate of assessment for Puduval lands.*

Mr. Vareethu Eippa (Member, Thodupuzha Taluk) stated that the Government had ruled that *Puduval* lands newly registered should be assessed to tax at the rate of not less than five fanams per acre. But till 1084 M. E., the tax per acre was only seven chackrams. The lands in the Thodupuzha taluk, being mostly jungle tracts, were cultivated only once in 8 or 10 years, and the rate of assessment on the cultivated lands was 8 chackrams per 128 *perukams*. Even if these lands were cultivated once in 6 years, the tax to the Government at the enhanced rate came to 30 fanams per acre, leaving an income to the owner of only about 6 paras of paddy. This amount did not come to more than half the tax paid to the Government. Subsequent to the enhancement of the rate of assessment, no applicants were coming forward for the registry of new lands, and remissions of taxes were also on the increase. Another grievance of the people was that they were asked to pay the value of trees of less than 8 *vannams*. Considering the above difficulties in the enjoyment of lands at present, the Member prayed that lands situated more than half a mile from inhabited areas and used for hill cultivation might be classed as *Cherikal* lands and ordered to be registered as such in accordance with the Proceedings of the Government, dated 20th December 1909, and that if this arrangement could not be sanctioned permanently, such registries might at least be allowed within a time to be fixed for the purpose.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

6. *Registry of shop-sites in the Kayancolam market.*

Mr. A. Krishna Pillai (Member, Kayancolam Trading Classes) requested that the shop-sites in the Kayencolam market might be registered in the names of the present holders on *pandarapattom*, without insisting on the condition that they should be handed over to the Government whenever required without claiming compensation for the same.

Dewan's reply.—Orders are under issue to register the shop-sites on *pandarapattom*, as desired by the Member.

7. *Abolition of the water cess on the lands to be benefited by the Chalakalpadom canal.*

Mr. Kannakku Athichan Athichan (Member, Changanacherry Taluk) said that the rate of water cess proposed to be levied on the lands that would be benefited by the Chalakalpadom canal in the Changanacherry taluk was very high. The cess should therefore be done away with altogether, but if that was not possible, a nominal cess might be levied. Further, the list that had been prepared

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